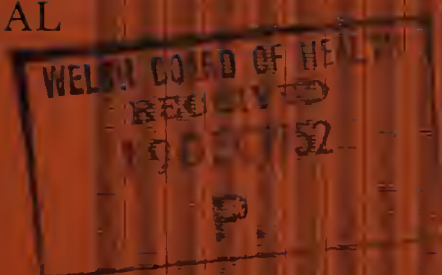


YSTRADGYNLAIS RURAL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

*Medical Officer of Health*

DR. J. TATE M.B., M.R.C., D.P.H.

AND

*Sanitary Inspector*

W. EMLYN JONES

*For the Year 1951*



# The Medical Officer's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report on the Health and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1951.

The health of the district during the year has on the whole been good. There has been an absence of any serious outbreaks of epidemic diseases and the majority of deaths during the year have been in the higher age groups. The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been low. The number of pneumoconiosis cases particularly among the older coal miners is naturally high in this anthracite coal mining area.

Local Health Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946 are carried out by the Brecon County Council and have worked efficiently. It has not been necessary to take action under the National Assistance Act 1948 Section 47.

The housing problem still remains the most urgent matter. The number of houses built by the Council since 1920 is 761. The number of houses built from 1945 to 1950 is 323. The number of houses built during 1951 is 62. A large percentage of existing houses are occupied by more than one family and there are also a number of substandard houses which should be considered for demolition when conditions permit. In the allocation of houses the Council has adopted the points scheme and special consideration is given to those families that have cases of Tuberculosis that cannot be properly isolated.

I wish to tender my best thanks to the Council for their kindness and co-operation in all matters relating to the Public Health during the year 1951.

I am Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. TATE, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

## WATER SUPPLY

There are seven piped water supplies in the area five of which are chlorinated. The water has been satisfactory in quality and quantity and every house has its own piped supply except in the case of some few scattered dwellings such as isolated farms. No water supply in the district is liable to plumbosolvent action. There has been no evidence of any form of contamination. The number of the population supplied from the public water mains direct to their houses is 11,400. There are no stand pipe supplies.

Appended is a list of bacteriological examination carried out:—

Date.	Water Supply.	Result.
2/1/51	... Nantmarl	... Satisfactory
19/1/51	... Colbren	... Satisfactory
19/1/51	... Ffrydiau Twrch	... Satisfactory
19/1/51	... Lion Supply	... Satisfactory
19/1/51	... Cwmtwrch	... Satisfactory
19/1/51	... Ffrydiau Twrch	... Doubtful
7/2/51	... Ffrydiau Twrch	... Satisfactory
7/2/51	... Lion Supply	... Satisfactory
7/2/51	... Colbren	... Satisfactory
7/2/51	... Ffrydiau Twrch	... Satisfactory
7/2/51	... Nantmarl	... Satisfactory
22/2/51	... Garwleisiau	... Satisfactory
5/3/51	... Nant marl	... Satisfactory
5/3/51	... Lion	... Satisfactory
5/3/51	... Cwmtwrch (Llandilo)	... Satisfactory
5/3/51	... Cwmtwrch (Swansea)	... Satisfactory
28/3/51	... Cwmtwrch (Llandilo)	... Satisfactory
28/3/51	... Cwmtwrch (Swansea)	... Satisfactory
28/3/51	... Garwleisiau	... Unsatisfactory
28/3/51	... Nantmarl	... Satisfactory
4/4/51	... Ffrydiau Twrch	... Unsatisfactory
4/4/51	... Ffrydiau Twrch	... Satisfactory
4/4/51	... Lion Supply	... Satisfactory
4/4/51	... Colbren	... Satisfactory
9/5/51	... Ffrydiau Twrch	... Doubtful
9/5/51	... Ffrydiau Twrch	... Satisfactory
9/5/51	... Colbren	... Satisfactory
9/5/51	... Nantmarl	... Satisfactory

Date.		Water Supply.		Result.
23/5/51	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
23/5/51	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
23/5/51	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
23/5/51	...	Cwmtwrch (Swansea)	...	Satisfactory
6/6/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
6/6/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Unsatisfactory
26/6/51	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
26/6/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
12/7/51	...	Cwmtwrch (Llandilo)	...	Satisfactory
12/7/51	...	Cwmtwrch (Swansea)	...	Satisfactory
12/7/51	...	Nantmarl	...	Unsatisfactory
25/7/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Unsatisfactory
25/7/51	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
25/7/51	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
25/7/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Unsatisfactory
26/7/51	...	Frydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
26/7/51	...	Frydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
30/8/51	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
30/8/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
30/8/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Unsatisfactory
19/9/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Unsatisfactory
19/9/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Unsatisfactory
19/9/51	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
19/9/51	...	Nantmarl	...	Doubtful
18/10/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
18/10/51	...	Nantmarl	...	Unsatisfactory
18/10/51	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
12/11/51	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
12/11/51	...	Cwmtwrch (Swansea)	...	Satisfactory
12/11/51	...	Cwmtwrch (Llandilo)	...	Satisfactory
12/11/51	...	Nantmarl	...	Unsatisfactory
21/11/51	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
21/11/51	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
21/11/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
21/11/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Unsatisfactory
5/12/51	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
5/12/51	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
5/12/51	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
5/12/51	...	Nantmarl	...	Unsatisfactory
19/12/51	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
19/12/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
19/12/51	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Unsatisfactory



## SEWERAGE

The whole of the district is on main drainage with one sewerage disposal works. The disposal plant has been working normally and the sewerage effluent has always been up to the standard laid down by the Royal Commission.

## FOOD

There has been no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. The Council have adopted the Clean Food Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Copies of the Byelaws have been distributed to all people concerned in the preparation handling and distribution of food. It has not been found necessary to take legal proceedings under the Byelaws. Clean Food Campaign has been carried out by frequent visits to food premises, cafes and works canteens where defects have been pointed out and remedied and instruction given on the necessity for scrupulous cleanliness in handling of food at all stages.

## STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

The District consists of two Parishes, Ystradgynlais Higher and Ystradgynlais Lower their respective areas 13,182 and 9,016, a total of 22,198 acres.

Population: 11,450.

Industries.—Ystradgynlais Lower is more industrial in nature than Ystradgynlais Higher and is more thickly populated. The chief industries are coal mining, watch making, quarrying and agriculture.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Births:—

(a) Live Births:

Total	...	171	...	166	legitimate; 5 illegitimate
Males	...	96	...	92	legitimate; 4 illegitimate
Females	...	75	...	74	legitimate; 1 illegitimate

(b) Still Births:— Males 2; Females Nil.

Deaths:— Total 138: Males 70; Females 68.

Causes of Death:--	Males	Females
Respiratory Tuberculosis .....	1	1
Tuberculosis: Other forms .....	1	2
Syphilitic Disease .....	1	1
Influenza .....	—	—
Acute Polio Myel. ....	—	—
Cancer of Uterus and Oesoph. ....	—	1
Cancer of Stomach .....	3	1
Cancer of Breast .....	—	—
Cancer: Other sites .....	4	6
Diabetes .....	—	2
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesion .....	6	15
Heart Disease .....	12	17
Disease of Circulatory System .....	3	3
Bronchitis .....	7	2
Pneumonia .....	6	—
Leukaemia .....	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	11	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	1	—
Appendicitis .....	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases .....	—	—
Nephritis .....	—	2
Premature Birth .....	—	—
Con. Mal. Birth inj. ....	—	—
Road Accidents .....	1	—
Other violent causes .....	2	1
Other causes .....	9	12
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	—	—
Suicide .....	1	—
	—	—
Total...	70	68

Infectious Diseases.—The incidence of infectious diseases was remarkably low the chief epidemics being Measles and Scarlet Fever.

#### Chief Notifiable Diseases:—

Measles .....	73	Tuberculosis .....	15
Whooping Cough .....	10	Pneumonia .....	1
Vericella .....	—	Poliomyelitis .....	4
Scarlet Fever .....	5	Erysipelas .....	—
Diphtheria .....	—	Dysentery .....	1

## Tuberculosis

New cases notified:—	Male		Female		Total
Respiratory .....	5	...	9	...	14
Non-Respiratory .....	1	...	—	...	1
Deaths					
Respiratory .....	1	...	1	...	2
Non-Respiratory .....	1	...	2	...	3

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

General Medical.—Dr. A. F. Sladden, Beck Laboratory, General Hospital, Swansea.

Water Supplies.—Public Health Laboratory Services, Carmarthen.

Milk: Public Health Laboratory Services, Carmarthen.

## HOSPITAL SERVICES

Hospital Accommodation.

Infectious Diseases.—The Infectious Diseases Hospital is situated at Hill House, Swansea, and is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

General Hospital Facilities.—General Hospital Facilities are provided for at the Swansea General Hospital, Morriston Hospital and the West Glamorgan Hospital at Neath, all of which are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.



# The Sanitary Inspector's Report

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1951.

62 families were rehoused in new houses during the year, the houses having been shared fairly equally throughout the district, 20 to Maespica, 19 at Gyrnosfa and 23 at Yniswen. Thus the extremities and the centre of the district had a fair quota.

With the continual expansion of our housing site the work of collection of house refuse increases with each year. a substantial increase in the tonnage collected being apparent this year over that collected last year.

The work of connecting to the sewer at Colbren proceeded satisfactorily during the year and with the exception of one or two isolated cases it may now be said that the Higher Parish is now effectively sewered and drained.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES,  
Sanitary Inspector.

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## GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Housing Inspections and Re-inspections (Housing								
Acts and Public Health Acts) ... ..								516
Drainage ... ..								170
Infectious Diseases ... ..								38
Verminous Premises ... ..								2
Farms, Cowsheds and Dairies ... ..								6
Factories and Workshops ... ..								2
Food Premises ... ..								26
Bakehouses ... ..								1
Refuse Collection and Disposal ... ..								88
Inspections under Infestation Order ... ..								23
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..								170
								<hr/>
								1042

### 1.—Inspection of Dwellinghouses

(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected during the year (Public Health and Housing Acts)	480
(b) Number of Inspections for the purposes ... ..	516

### 2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	59
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### 3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

#### (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

1.—Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
2.—Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices ... ..	59
(a) By Owners ... ..	59
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

#### (b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.

1.—Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	4
2.—Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. ... ..	Nil
3.—Statutory Notice served under Water Act ...	Nil
4.—Number complied with ... ..	Nil

#### (c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1926.

1.—Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil
2.—Number of Separate Tenants in underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil

## NOTICES SERVED

### Under the Housing Acts:

Number of Informal Notices served ... ..	Nil
Number of Informal Notices complied with ...	Nil
Number of Formal Notices served ... ..	Nil
Number of Formal Notices complied with ... ..	Nil

### Under the Public Health Acts:

Number of Informal Notices served ... ..	68
Number of Formal Notices complied with ...	59
Number of Formal Notices served ... ..	8
Number of Formal Notices complied with ... ..	7

**Public Cleansing.**—During the year a new Karrier Bantam refuse Lorry was put into operation and has given good service, being most suitable for work in some of the narrow alleyways in our district. The Thames Fordson is still giving good service, although it is getting somewhat expensive to operate. With the increased number of houses on our estates this work increases every year, this year showing an increase of 300 loads, comprising 3,300 tons over last year's figures. Absenteeism among the personnel has also increased our difficulties and the continual changing of drivers cannot be said to be an advantage to the efficient running of the lorries.

**Disinfection.**—It is pleasing to note that the number of houses disinfected during the year was only 5 compared to 15 in 1950. These houses were fumigated and sprayed and a free supply of disinfectant given to the occupiers for washing clothing and general purposes.

**Disinfestation.**—17 houses were disinfested with DDT Solution, mainly against ants although cases were dealt with during the year on account of long infestation and general filthiness.

**School Milks.**—All the Schools are now supplied with Pasteurised Milk and during the year 53 samples were taken all of which proved to be satisfactory. It is a satisfaction to parents to know that the milk consumed by the children in school has been effectively pasteurised thus giving the maximum possible degree of protection against infection.

**Retailed Milk.**—The milk retailed in the area is now practically all pasteurised, some being pasteurised within our district but most of it being imported. A check was kept during the year on milk vehicles retailing milk within the area and I am pleased to be able to report favourably in this matter.

**Water Supply.**—An endeavour has been made to sample the district's water supplies at least once a month and a total of 70 were taken. Difficulties were experienced with the chlorinating plant at Ffrydiau Twrch but that has now been righted. Samples were also taken when requested by the County Agricultural Committee from springs, etc., on farms when grants were being applied for.

**Sewage Effluents.**—A sample of effluents were taken at the Enfield Clock Co., and was found to contain chiefly particles of calcium hydroxide. The suspended matter consisted mainly of thick sludge of very fine particles which would quickly choke filters and render filtration impossible. The Public Analyst was of the opinion that if this sludge was allowed to continue to pass on to filter beds it would soon render them useless.

The matter was immediately taken up with the Company by the Surveyor and myself and following the installation of an up-to-date filtering plant at the factory the subsequent sample complied with the Standard recommended in the Eighth Report of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal for an effluent fit for discharge into a stream or river.

A sample of effluent was also taken at the Perry Chain Factory and this complied with the recommendations of the Commission.

**Food and Drugs Act.**—Grocery Stores, Fried Fish Shops, Butchers' and Ice Cream Premises and also Works Canteens were periodically visited and whilst there is always room for improvements no glaring case of infringement can be reported. Structurally the premises in our area are generally satisfactory, but educational work amongst employees in the basic principles of food handling and food hygiene can never be overdone.



The following articles of food were condemned as unfit for human food:—

16½ lbs. Bacon.	5 tins Peaches.
6 tins Baked Beans.	1 tin Peas.
4 tins Beetroot.	3 tins Pears.
9¾ lbs. Butter.	1 tin Pudding.
18 lbs. Cheese.	18 pkts Pudding Powder.
2 tins Cherries.	12 tins Plums.
1 pkt. Dried Egg.	7 tins Raspberries.
6 tins Greengages.	1 tin Rhubarb.
7 lbs. Jam.	2 tins Soup.
10 lbs, Margarine.	1 tin Strawberries.
1 tin Marmalade.	2¾ lbs. Sweets.
109 lbs. Meat.	69 tins Tinned Meat.
9 tins Milk.	35 tins Tomatoes.

20 samples of ice cream from all local manufacturers were sent for the Methylene Blue Test and the results being as follows:—

Grade 1.—Satisfactory .....	9
Grade 2.—Fair .....	3
Grade 3.—Unsatisfactory .....	4
Grade 4.—Very Unsatisfactory ...	4

It is unsatisfactory to note that the number of satisfactory samples was less than the combined totals in the other grades, although the results show a slight improvement on those of last year. The premises of the local manufacturers are well constructed and are well looked after, factors which are often counterbalanced by proper technique in manufacture and a full understanding of the principles of food hygiene.

**Water Supply.**—The water supplies of the district were regularly sampled during the year and as far as could be arranged a sample of each supply was taken every month.

70 samples of water were sent for bacteriological analysis and the results appear in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.



**Housing.**—The work of repairing the older type of house was maintained and in all 59 houses had repairs carried out. Inspections were also carried out in Council houses to ensure a satisfactory standard of cleanliness on the estates and it is regrettable to have to report that during the year one tenant had to be evicted. It was long feared that this step would have to be taken for every means were previously tried to obtain improvements but all to no avail, the occupants showing not the slightest ability to exercise even the rudiments of house management. The steps taken by the Council have proved to be the correct ones, the children concerned having since been under proper care.

During the year 62 new houses were let and this has again relieved overcrowding in numerous houses, particularly those cases where more than one family occupied the same house. The housing survey is being proceeded with and it is hoped to include a report on this respect in 1952.

**Rodent Control.**—The work of the Rodent Operator during the year is summarised as follows:—

	No. Treated	Points Laid	Estimated Killed	Bodies Found
Sewers ... ..	All Sections	295	91	32
Refuse Tips ... ..	8	424	404	82
River Banks ... ..	2	179	167	41
Private Premises ...	350	2869	2330	397
Business Premises	11	581	342	60
Totals ...	371	4348	3334	612

**Rainfall.**—Rainfall figures for the year:—

January .....	7.86 ins.	July .....	1.37 ins.
February .....	5.55 „	August .....	11.94 „
March .....	5.97 „	September ...	2.48 „
April .....	4.35 „	October .....	1.35 „
May .....	2.83 „	November ...	11.49 „
June .....	2.28 „	December ...	2.52 „

Total for the year — 60.00 ins.

I am Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES,  
Sanitary Inspector.



